

# St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

## Camping



Spending a night on the St. Croix or Namekagon rivers can be a rewarding way to experience one of the first wild and scenic rivers to become a part of our National Park System. There are several ways to camp along the Riverway. State parks, forests, and private campgrounds offer many amenities while primitive shoreline campsites offer a more rustic experience.

## Developed Campgrounds

Located in state or private areas, these campgrounds provide tent and car camping. Many of these large camping areas include such amenities as showers, dump stations, water, modern restrooms and more. Fees are charged at developed campgrounds and reservations are required for state parks and at most private campgrounds. State forest campgrounds are first come, first served.

**Minnesota information:**  
DNR Information Center  
651-296-6157  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

**Wisconsin information:**  
State Park Camping  
888-947-2757  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

Office of Tourism  
651-296-5029  
[www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)

Department of Tourism  
800-432-8747  
[www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)

### State Campgrounds near the Riverway

Minnesota:  
Afton State Park  
Chengwatana State Forest  
Minnesota Interstate State Park  
St. Croix State Forest  
St. Croix State Park  
Wild River State Park  
William O'Brien State Park

Wisconsin:  
Governor Knowles State Forest  
Willow River State Park  
Wisconsin Interstate State Park

## Primitive Shoreline Campsites

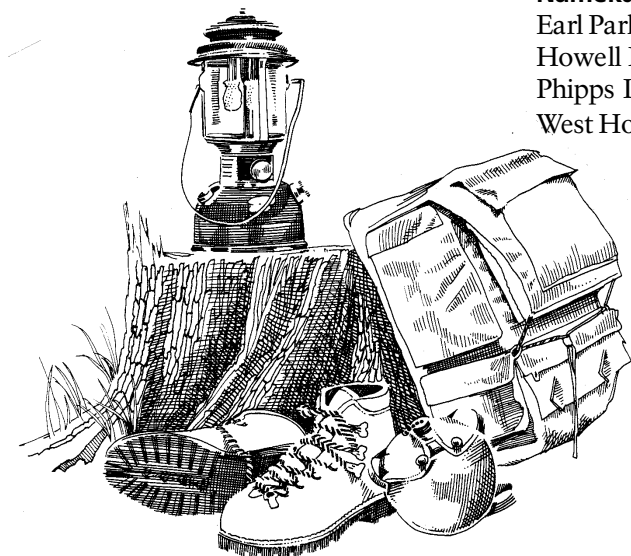
The National Park Service provides many individual campsites right on the river. Most of these campsites are accessible only from the water; some offer walk-in sites, and all include a fire ring, a clearing for tents and primitive toilet. Picnic tables and water are located at some sites. Check section maps, available at landings and on the Riverway website, [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn), for locations. Individual campsites accommodate up to 8 people and 3 tents. Group campsites accommodate up to 16 people and 6 tents. There is no camping fee or reservation system.

### Walk-in Campsites

These sites are for tents only. Gear must be carried from your vehicle to the campsite. Walk-in campsites are available a short distance from parking areas at the following locations:

**Namekagon River**  
Earl Park  
Howell Landing  
Phipps Landing  
West Howell Landing

**St. Croix River**  
County O Landing  
Norway Point Landing  
Nelsons Landing  
Old Railroad Bridge  
Riverside Landing  
Sandrock Cliffs  
Sunrise Ferry Landing



## Overnight Stays

### Camping Zones Downstream of the Hydroelectric Dam

Camping regulations will change in 2008 when the Lower River Camping Management Plan is implemented. Check the Riverway website ([www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)) for copies of the plan and updates.

### Camp Lightly

As demand for recreation continues to increase, pressure on natural areas such as the St. Croix Riverway has become more intense. Visitors practicing low impact camping techniques are very important to preserving the natural character of the Riverway. The following tips will make your trip more enjoyable and help preserve the Riverway resources.

#### Plan Ahead

Consider camping on week days to avoid crowds. Plan meals carefully to reduce waste. Repackage food to minimize the amount of containers and trash. **Glass containers are prohibited on lands and waters within the Riverway.** Please use plastic or aluminum containers and recycle them. Take the proper equipment with you to wash dishes including biodegradable soap. Please scatter your dishwater far enough away from the river and your camping area so that it will not flow back into the river.

#### Use Established Sites

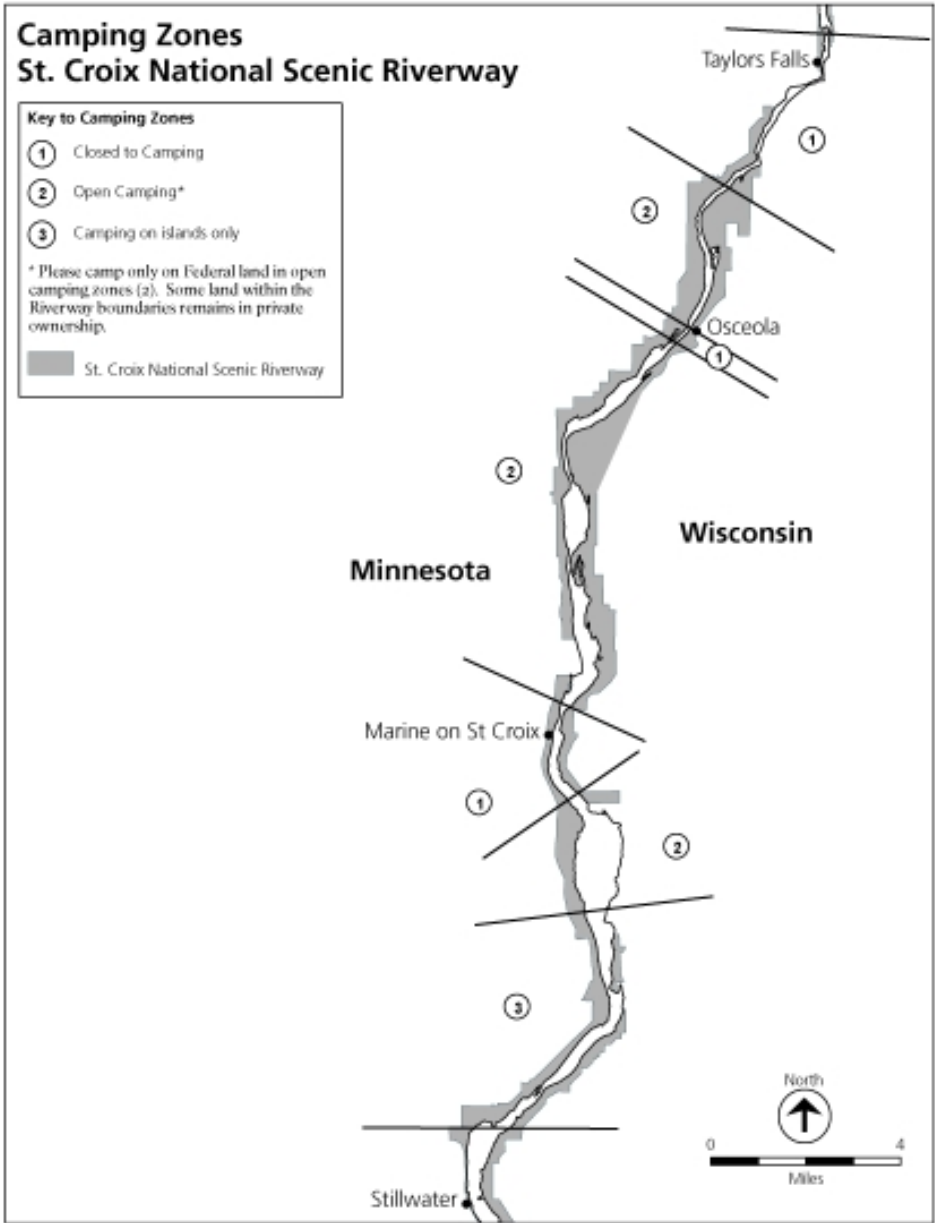
Use designated campsites on the Riverway. In camping zones from St. Croix Falls to Stillwater, it is best to camp at sites that have history of use. These sites are noticable because they have lost vegetative cover. Confine travel to established paths around the camping area.

#### Fires

Upstream from the hydroelectric dam near Taylors Falls/St. Croix Falls, fires are permitted in metal firerings only. Picnickers and campers may collect only dead and down wood for use. Firewood may not be gathered on any island in the river. Possession of firewood that originates more than 50 miles away from the Riverway is prohibited.

### Camping Upstream of the Hydroelectric Dam

There is a three-night limit at each campsite on the St. Croix River, north of the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls, and on the entire Namekagon River. Section maps showing the location of campsites are available at Riverway Visitor Centers or from the Riverway website: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn).



Please be aware that invasive forest pests such as gypsy moths and emerald ash borers can be spread by infested firewood, so burn all wood you bring.

#### Carry Out Trash

Bring a trash bag with you so you can carry out all trash. Trash and recycling receptacles are available only at visitor centers. Do not leave trash in fire rings or toilets.

#### Store Food Properly

Animals are attracted to the smell of human food. Keep the wildlife wild by hanging all food and garbage in a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk. At walk-in campsites, store food in coolers, out of sight, in the trunk of your vehicle. Strain waste from dishwashing water. Then scatter the water away from your campsite and the river.

#### Human Waste

All primitive shoreline campsites upstream of the hydroelectric dam have toilets. If a toilet is not available when you stop along the river, dig a six inch deep hole at least 100 feet from water and paths. Toilet paper and feminine hygiene products should be packed out in a plastic bag. Urinating in the river is prohibited.

By practicing these simple techniques, you can do your part to preserve the beauty of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

For more information contact:  
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway  
401 Hamilton St.  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-2274  
[www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)

